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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,478	03/25/2004	Masayasu Suzuki	50195-418	6313
7590 01/09/2006 McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY 600 13th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005-3096			EXAMINER TRAN, DALENA	
			ART UNIT 3661	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/808,478

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Dalena Tran

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9,15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,10-14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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10/808, 478

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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20060104

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This office action is responsive to the amendment filed on 10/31/05. As per request, claims 1, and 12-14 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-16 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 6, and 12-14, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jitsukata et al. (6169940).

As per claims 1 and 13, Jitsukata et al. disclose an information providing device installed in a leader vehicle that leads a follower vehicle, for providing the follower vehicle with guidance prepared by the leader vehicle, the information providing device comprising: a state detector configured to detect a state change in the leader vehicle to output a detecting signal, wherein the state change occurs in the vehicle when a driver of the vehicle provides an input to the vehicle (see columns 3-5, lines 59-47), and guidance generator configured to prepare, in response to the detecting signal, the guidance to guide the follower vehicle, wherein the guidance includes a photographed image of a view ahead of the leader vehicle (see column 2, lines 11-57; and column 3, lines 20-58).

As per claims 2-3, Jitsukata et al. disclose wherein the state detector is coupled to a turn signal installed in the leader vehicle, detects operation of the turn signal and

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outputs the detecting signal, the guidance generator obtains a directional input to the turn signal (see columns 3-5, lines 59-47; and column 6, lines 1-56).

As per claim 4, Jitsukata et al. disclose the guidance generator obtains a position of the leader vehicle (see columns 4-5, lines 39-47; and columns 7-8, lines 41-17).

As per claim 6, Jitsukata et al. disclose the guidance generator obtains a running speed of the leader vehicle (see column 8, lines 18-60).

As per claims 12, and 14, Jitsukata et al. disclose an information providing system comprising: a sender used when a vehicle is a leader vehicle that leads a follower vehicle, the sender configured to provide the follower vehicle with guidance for guiding the follower vehicle, the sender including: a state detector configured to detect a state change in the leader vehicle, the state change occurs in the vehicle when a driver of the vehicle provides an input to the vehicle (see columns 3-5, lines 59-47), a guidance generator configured to prepare, in response to the state change detected by the state detector, the guidance including a photographed image of a view ahead of the leader vehicle (see column 2, lines 11-58; and column 3, lines 20-58), a presenter installed in the follower vehicle, configured to receive the sent guidance and present to present the guidance, the presenter including a guidance obtainer configured to obtain the guidance including the photographed image of the view ahead of the leader vehicle (see column 7, lines 15-28; and column 9, lines 14-57), and an output unit configured to provide the user with the guidance obtained by the guidance obtainer (see column 7, lines 28-40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5, and 7, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jitsukata et al. (6169940) in view of Taguchi et al. (6553288).

As per claim 5, Jitsukata et al. do not disclose the guidance generator obtains time on the leader vehicle. However, Taguchi et al. disclose the guidance generator obtains time on the leader vehicle (see columns 11-12, lines 32-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of Jitsukata et al. by combining obtains time on the leader vehicle to keep track the path of the leader vehicle.

Also, as per claim 7, Taguchi et al. disclose wherein the guidance generator obtains a relative distance between the leader vehicle and the follower vehicle according to a running speed of the leader vehicle (see column 4, lines 11-49; and columns 5-6, lines 36-5), and a position of the leader vehicle related to time, a running speed of the follower vehicle, and a position of the follower vehicle related to time (see columns 11-12, lines 32-67).

5. Claims 10, and 16, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jitsukata et al. (6169940) in view of Barrett et al. (5331561).

As per claims 10, and 16, Jitsukata et al. disclose an information providing device comprising: a guidance obtainer to obtain guidance including a photographed image of a view ahead of a leader vehicle that leads a follower vehicle and a position where the guidance was prepared (see column 7, lines 15-28; and column 8, lines 18-60). Jitsukata et al. do not disclose history detector. However, Barrett et al. disclose a history detector

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to detect running history of the follower vehicle, an output unit to provide with the guidance obtained by the guidance obtainer, wherein the guidance obtainer includes a selector configured to compare the running history with the position, the selector configured to select the guidance that was prepared at the closest position ahead of a present position of the follower vehicle, and the selector configured to transfer the selected guidance to the output unit (see columns 6-8, lines 55-36). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of Jitsukata et al. by combining history detector to determine follower vehicle position and to match the follower vehicle along a guided path of the leader vehicle.

6. Claim 11, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jitsukata et al. (6169940), and Barrett et al. (5331561) as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Taguchi et al. (6553288).

As per claim 11, Jitsukata et al., and Barrett et al. do not disclose relative distance between the leader and the follower vehicle. However, Taguchi et al. disclose the obtained guidance includes the position where the leader vehicle prepared the obtained guidance, time when the leader vehicle passed the position, and a speed of the leader vehicle (see columns 11-12, lines 32-67), and the guidance obtainer finds a relative distance between the leader and the follower vehicle according to the position, time, and a speed of the leader vehicle and the follower vehicle (see column 4, lines 11-49; and columns 5-6, lines 36-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of Jitsukata et al. by combining relative distance between the leader and the follower vehicle to determine path tracking of the leader and the follower vehicle.

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7. Claim 8, is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9, and 15 are allowable.

Remarks

8. Applicant's argument filed on 10/31/05 has been fully considered. Upon updated search, the new ground of rejection has been set forth as above.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalena Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-6968.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30 AM-4:00 PM), off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 571-272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner
Dalena Tran

January 5, 2006

